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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 97-309

Document # 22a

22a

BANNER Operations (Action No. 1)

1. Number of aircraft needed for cover?

a. Four fighter aircraft airborne at all times during daylight hours. Total of 12 aircraft required.

b. Four anti-patrol boat aircraft airborne at all times during daylight hours. Total of 12 aircraft required.

c. Four attack aircraft on standby during hours of darkness. Total of 4 aircraft required.

d. One early warning radar picket aircraft airborne at all times. Total of 3 aircraft required.

2. Reevaluate cruiser requirement. If needed, will not this greatly delay initiation of action?

a. CINCPAC states that the cruiser is required. The USS CANBERRA is a missile cruiser, and its use in this operation would greatly enhance the security and survivability of the force in the event of an air or surface attack.

b. By sailing the cruiser to a rendezvous east of the DMZ, the arrival of the cruiser would delay the operation approximately 23 hours.

3. Consider inclusion of ROKN in TF: Which ships? Where are they?

E.O. 12958
Sec. 1.6(c)(1)(4)
3.4(b)(3)(5)(8)

OATSDP/PA/DFOISR
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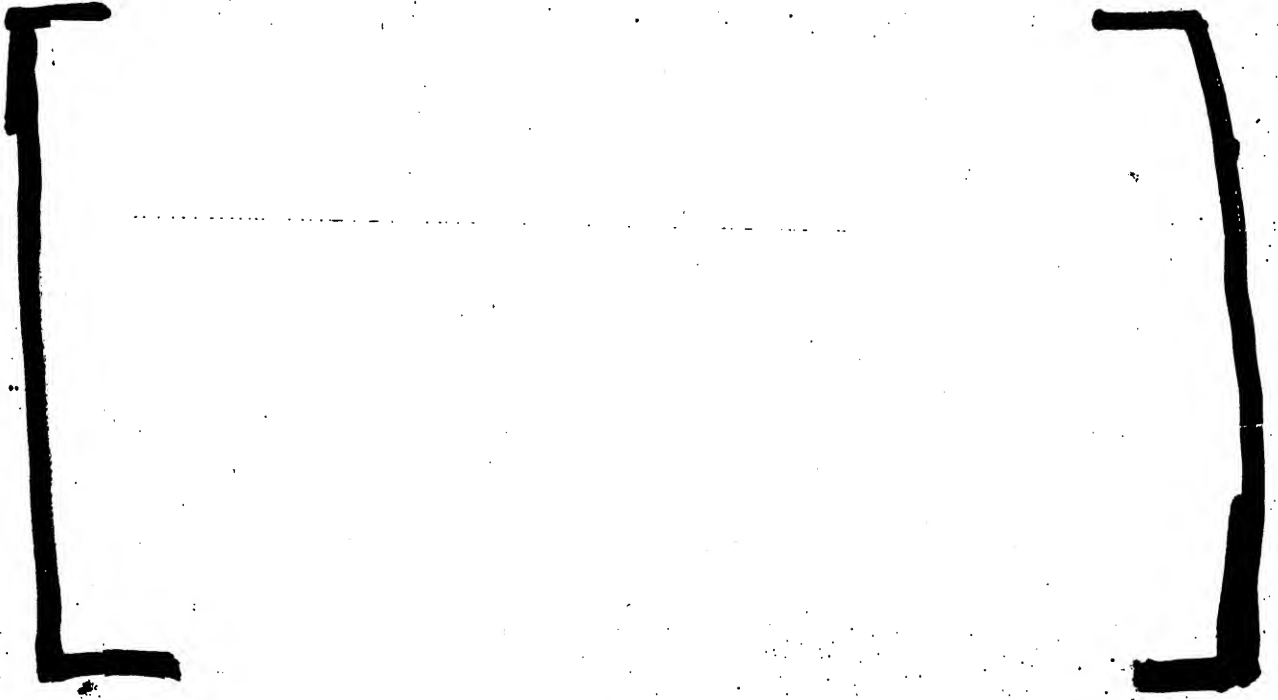
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Case No. 97-4-0217
T.S. No. 97-15-171
Document No. 1

Sanitized: 28 AUG 1998

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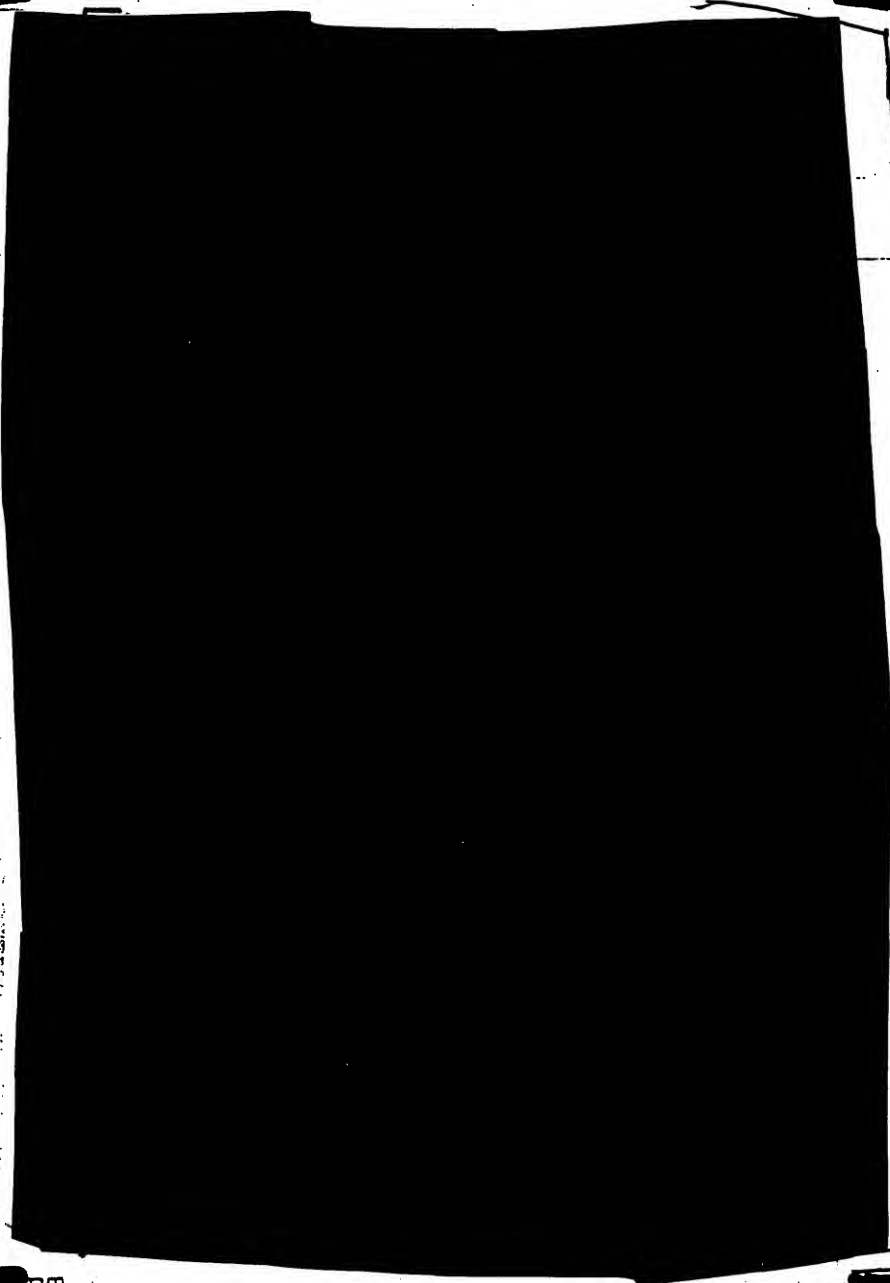


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- c. Estimate of US Losses in Strikes Against Two
Selected Targets or in Neutralization of NKAF.
(See Tabs A and B attached)

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CHRONOLOGY OF ACTION REGARDING THE PUEBLO
(In Eastern Standard Time - "E")

January 10

Pueblo departs Sasebo under orders to maintain radio silence unless she was under surveillance.

January 22

2050E Pueblo establishes radio communications, transmits two Situation Reports and other data. Describes Pueblo activities since arriving on station on 12 January including; sighting of NK patrol craft on January 20, close contact with fishing trawlers on January 21 about 2225E, 18 other contacts subsequently, and gives several position reports (all in international waters). These two routine Situation Reports were received as follows:

Situation Report No. 1:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2203E
CINCPAC	- 0302E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 0303E (January 23)
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 0550E (January 23)

Situation Report No. 2:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2210E
CINCPAC	- 0315E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 1047E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 1455E (January 23)

2252E Pueblo reports encounter at 2200E with North Korean patrol craft which requested nationality. Pueblo raised ensign. NK craft signaled: "Heave to or I will open fire on you." Pueblo responded "I am in international waters." Pueblo reports intention to remain in area, if possible; otherwise to withdraw to northeast. This message was relayed CRITIC by the receiving station in Japan.

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January 22 (cont'd)

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN - 2313E
CINCUNC Headquarters - 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC) - 2346E
CINCPAC - 0010E (January 23)

2315E Pueblo reports surrounded by NK patrol craft, receiving signal: "Follow my wake, have pilot aboard." Two MIGs sighted circling overhead. One patrol craft preparing boarding party. This message was also relayed CRITIC by the receiving station in Japan.

COMNAVFORJAPAN - 2322E
CINCUNC - 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC) - 2346E
CINCPACFLT - 0041E (January 23)
CINCPAC - 0030E (January 23)

2326E Pueblo reports NK craft plans to open fire.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN - 2329E
Pentagon (NMCC) - 2346E
CINCPAC - 2355E

2328E Pueblo reports being boarded.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN - 2346E
Pentagon (NMCC) - 0041E (January 23)
CINCPAC - 0049E (January 23)

January 22 (cont'd)

2335E COMNAVFORJAPAN requests assistance from 5th Air Force.

2345E Pueblo reports being escorted into probably Wonsan.
Message relayed from Japan, retransmitted by DIRNSA.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2352E
CINCPAC	- 0103E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 0101E (January 23)

2346E Messages sent by Pueblo at 2252E, 2315E, and 2326E, all of which were relayed [] from Japan, arrive in NMCC and other watch offices in Washington. NMCC notifies other agencies and Chairman, JCS, Deputy Secretary Defense. Other agencies notify senior officials including Bundy, Hughes, and Read at State, Rostow at White House. 1.5C

January 23

0000E Pueblo reports being requested to follow into Wonsan. Had not used any weapons, is destroying as much equipment and documents as possible, 3 men wounded and one has leg blown off.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0003E
CINCPAC	- 0052E
Pentagon	- 0053E

0023E Secretary McNamara notified. Consults Secretary Rusk.

0025E Pueblo reports that almost everything had been destroyed but that destruction incomplete, some things will be compromised.

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January 23 (cont'd)

This message was received by DIRNSA in Washington
and re-transmitted by DIRNSA at 0236E

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0032E
Pentagon	- 0302E
CINCPAC	- 0549E

0032E Pueblo reports going off air: destroying gear.
(Final message.)

Message relayed by Japan - 0034E

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0034E
CINCPAC	- 0110E
Pentagon	- 0119E

0046E Commander 5th Air Force calls CINCPACAF and proposes
alerting 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Okinawa.

0048E Commander 5th Air Force orders deployment of aircraft
from Okinawa to Osan, SK.

0130E Rostow calls NMCC, then CINCPAC.

0211E Aircraft launched from Okinawa but Commander 5th AF,
together with CINCPACAF, concludes that properly
configured aircraft could not reach Pueblo before
darkness and that no effective action is possible to
aid Pueblo.

0215E McNamara, Bundy, Goulding confer on status of Pueblo
and press release.

0225E President notified.

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DETAILED KNOWN CHRONOLOGY ON
THE LOCATION AND SEIZURE OF THE PUEBLO 1/

1) Jan. 11, 6:00 AM Korean Time (102100Z, 1600 EST, Jan. 10)

Pueblo departed Sasebo under instructions to engage in an intelligence-gathering mission in the Sea of Japan and under orders that the closest point of approach to the North Korean land mass and offshore islands was to be 13 nautical miles. 2/

2) Jan. 12, 11:30 PM Korean Time (121430Z, 0930 EST, Jan. 12)

Pueblo arrived in her operations area.

3) Jan. 20, 5:50 PM Korean Time (200850Z, 0350 EST, Jan. 20)

Pueblo position reported as 39-47.0N/128-25.5E, 15.4 nautical miles from nearest land. 3/ Pueblo sighted a North Korean submarine chaser at 4,000 yards. It showed no interest in the Pueblo.

1/ Times given are in Korean Time, Greenwich Mean Time (Z), and Eastern Standard Time (EST). Greenwich Mean Time is 9 hours behind and Eastern Standard Time 14 hours behind Korean Time. In some cases this results in events being recorded on different days on Greenwich and/or Eastern Standard Time than in Korean Time. The Korean Time makes clear what the actual daylight or nighttime conditions were in the area. For additional clarity the Korean times are given in AM and PM instead of the 24-hour clock used for military messages.

2/ The Pueblo did not thereafter transmit any messages until 10:50 AM Korean Time on January 23 (230150Z, or 2050 EST, Jan. 22). Between that point and 12:52 PM Korean Time (230352Z, 2252 EST, Jan. 22) it transmitted all the data set forth through number 12 below on previous events, except for numbers 8 and 11 which are derived from the log of the receiving station on shore.

3/ This and subsequent distances from the nearest land were not given by the Pueblo itself but have been calculated by the Navy Department from the position coordinates reported by the Pueblo.

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- (4) Morning of January 22 Korean Time (night of Jan. 21Z and late afternoon Jan. 21 EST)

Pueblo arrived in area off Wonsan.

- 5) Jan. 22, 12:25 PM Korean Time (220325Z, 2225 EST, Jan. 21)

Two North Korean vessels were sighted at 10,000 yards. When both had reached a point about 1,500 yards from the Pueblo, one changed course and closed to about 100 yards. The Pueblo identified them as probably North Korean fishing ships. They withdrew to about 9,000 yards.

- 6) Jan. 22, 3:00 PM Korean Time (220600Z, or 0100 EST, Jan. 22)

(The two North Korean vessels made another approach to the Pueblo, closing this time to 30 yards. The Pueblo at this time was dead in the water, showing the signal for hydrographic operations, at 39-14.8N/128-07.0E (15 nautical miles from Nam Do). The two vessels finally departed at 4:00 PM Korean Time (220700Z, or 0200 EST, Jan. 22).

- 7) Jan. 22, 4:00 PM to Jan. 23, 10:00 AM Korean Time (220700Z, or 0200 EST Jan. 22 to 230100Z, or 2000 EST, Jan. 22)

Pueblo had 18 different contacts with unidentified vessels, the closest at 3,000 yards.

- 8) Jan. 22, 6:25 PM (220925Z, or 0425 EST, Jan. 22)

(Pueblo broke radio silence for first time since leaving port, exchanged call signs with shore station, but sent no messages.

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9) Jan. 23, 8:30 AM Korean Time (222330Z, or 1830 EST, Jan. 22)

Pueblo position reported as 39-12N/128-21.4E, 17 nautical miles from Nam Do.

10) Jan. 23, 10:00 AM Korean Time (230100Z, or 2000 EST, Jan. 22)

Pueblo position reported as 39-24N/127-59E, 18.2 nautical miles from Ung Do.

11) Jan. 23, 10:50 AM Korean Time (230150Z, or 2050 EST, Jan. 22)

The operator succeeded for the first time in establishing communications. He asked if his transmissions could be read,

gave Pueblo's position at 39-24N/127-59E (18.2 nautical miles from Ung Do), and reported he had some messages to send. 4/

12) Jan. 23, 10:50 AM Korean Time (230150Z, or 2050 EST, Jan. 22)

The Pueblo felt it was no longer under surveillance and reported its intention to remain in the area and go back into radio silence. 5/

13) Jan. 23, subsequent to 11:35 AM Korean Time (230235Z, or 2135 EST, Jan. 22)

The Pueblo operator, in operational "chatter" of uncertain time subsequent to the transmittal of the message in 12) above,

reported the Pueblo had "more company" and intended to keep its circuit open.

(This was the first indication that the Pueblo was currently under surveillance.)

4/This call, with its position, was the first information received from the Pueblo subsequent to its departure from Sasebo on January 11. As indicated in footnote 2, the preceding information was transmitted between this time and 12:52 PM Korean Time (230352Z, or 2252 EST on Jan. 22)

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14) Jan. 23, 12:00 noon Korean Time (230300Z, or 2200 EST,
Jan. 22)

North Korean Submarine Chaser 35 reported by Pueblo as arriving on the scene, i.e. at 39-25.2N/127-55.0E, where the Pueblo lay dead in the water, 16.2 nautical miles from Ung Do.

The Pueblo reported that the 35 had hoisted a signal requesting its nationality. The Pueblo reported it hoisted the U.S. ensign, then the signal for "hydrographer". The 35 hoisted the signal: "Heave to or I will open fire on you." The Pueblo signaled: "I am in international waters." The 35 continued to circle the Pueblo. 6/

1.5 C
3.4 (b) (3)

5/ This message was transmitted some time after 11:35 AM Korean Time (230235Z, or 2135 EST on Jan. 22)

6/ This message, sent with a "flash" precedence, and in a category indicating a serious situation, was transmitted between 12:52 PM Korean Time (230352Z, or 2252 EST, Jan. 22) and 1:13 PM Korean Time 230413Z, or 2313 EST, Jan. 22). Because of its emergency character and flash precedence this message was retransmitted and cleared communications channels faster than any of the preceding messages and was the first report to reach Washington. All the reports from the Pueblo which follow in this chronology were sent after this report, except the one in 16), which was part of this message.

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(16) Jan. 23, 12:52 PM Korean Time (230352Z, or 2252 EST, Jan. 22)
(probable time)

Pueblo reported its intention was to remain in the area if feasible; if not, to withdraw slowly to the Northeast.

During the subsequent few minutes the operator reported it was "worse out here" and that the Pueblo had "more company".

17) Jan. 23, 1:15 to 1:18 PM Korean Time (230415 to 230418Z,
or 2315 EST to 2318 EST, Jan. 22)

Pueblo reported that the 35 had been joined at 1:00 PM Korean Time (0400Z or 2300 EST, Jan. 22) by three P-4 (torpedo boat) patrol craft. One Korean vessel signaled: "Follow in my wake. I have a pilot aboard." Two MIG's were sighted circling. One patrol boat with fenders rigged was reported backing toward the Pueblo with an armed landing party on board. The party was attempting to board.

The Pueblo reported itself underway, all ahead one-third, right full rudder; departing the area under escort

18) Jan. 23, 1:26 PM Korean Time (230426Z, or 2326 EST, Jan. 22)
to 1:36 PM Korean Time (230436Z, or 2336 EST, Jan. 22)

At 1:26 PM the Pueblo gave its position as 39-25.5N/127-54.9E and said, "They plan to open fire on us now". At 1:28 PM the Pueblo operator repeated that they planned to open fire and said, "We are being boarded." Then gave a slightly different position (39-25N/127-54.3E). Within the next few minutes the operator reported: "We are holding emergency destruction" i.e.

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of classified equipment and documents. The operator reported "laying to" at about 1:36 PM Korean Time.

19) Jan. 23, between 1:40 and 1:50 PM Korean Time (230440Z to 230445Z, or 2340 to 2345 EST, Jan. 22)

Pueblo operator reported: "We are being escorted into probably Wonsan."

20) Jan. 23, 2:00 PM Korean Time (230500Z, or 2400 EST, Jan. 22)
at about this time

Pueblo operator/transmitted a fuller and somewhat more formal report than the previous "chatter" that the Pueblo had been requested to follow into Wonsan, that 3 men were wounded and another had his leg blown off, that they had not used any weapons nor uncovered the 50 caliber machine guns, and that they did not intend to offer resistance.

21) Jan. 23, 2:30 PM Korean Time (230530Z, or 0030 EST, Jan. 23)

The Pueblo operator reported that the ship had been directed to come to "all stop" and again reported "being boarded".

22) Jan. 23, 2:32 PM Korean Time (230532Z, or 0032 EST, Jan. 23)

Final transmission from the Pueblo repeated 4 men were injured, one critically, and said it was going off the air and destroying the radio. (Best available evidence indicates the boarding occurred shortly after this point.)

3.4(b)(3)

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- 7 -

1.5(c)
1.6(2)(1)
3.4b(3)
25) Jan. 23, about 5:00 PM Korean Time (230800Z, or 0300 EST,

Jan. 23)

The Pueblo was taken into Wonsan Harbor.

26) Jan. 23, 5:36 PM Korean Time (230836Z or 0336 EST, Jan. 23)

Sunset in the Wonsan area.

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